

“Put Off Badly Needed Budget Cuts? Austerity Doesn’t Mean No Growth” – Reynolds

[Popular Articles, State of Money](#) — By [Tom Duncan](#) on January 19, 2011 at 2:21 PM

The Times’ real point was to argue that, “Whatever the sum . . . cutting billions would be foolish at a time when joblessness is high and the recovery needs stimulus, not tightening. . . . Spending cuts need not and should not start today, but the nation needs to put a credible plan in place now to reduce the deficit as the economy recovers.”

The trouble is that procrastination is never a credible plan. If Congress avoids doing even a little budget pruning right now, why expect it to do much more later? Promises to do something unpopular in the future could easily be undone by a future Congress, just as Congress repeatedly undoes the supposedly credible “doctor fix” (an absurd pledge to slash Medicare payments to physicians).” [Read more.](#)